development of indigenous system of medicine etc.

The ESI Corporation has already constructed three new ESI Hospitals i.e. one each at Kolhapur and Chinch wad and Dibewadi in Pune district and requested the Government of Maharashtra to take over the Hospitals for commissioning. The State Government has also submitted a proposal to the ESI Corporation for setting up of an ESI Dispensary at Dahanu Road, Maharashtra.

Statement

State wise no. of employees Covered under the ESI scheme as on 31.3.98

State/Area	No. of employees in implemented areas
Andhra Pr. & Yanam	4,53.800
Assam & Meghalaya	40,850
Bihar	1,64.100
Chandigarh	29.750
Delhi	5,53,400
Goa	64,550
Gujarat	6,36,050
Haryana	3,63,650
Himachal Pr.	32,900
Jammu & Kashmair	13,700
Karnataka	6,48,550
Kerala & Mahe	4,13,600
Madhya Pr.	2,36,000
Maharashtra	
(i) Mumbai area	10,32,900
(ii) Nagpur area	1,18,500
(iii) Pune area	3,78,900
Orissa	1,39,400
Pondicherry	34,450
Punjab	4,20,850
Rajasthan	2,97,650
Tamil Nadu	
(i) Chennai area	6,01,900
(ii) Coimbatore area	2,21,200
(iii) Madurai area	2,05,750
Uttar Pradesh	4,54,550
West Bengal	8,04,950
TOTAL	83,61,900

Generation of Employment

77. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the target set up for generation of employment during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the details of achievements made during the above years;

(c) the reasons for poor performance on the employment front; and

(d) the steps taken to enhance opportunities for more employment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The target for employment generation are set for five Year Plans and year-wise targets are not set. As per the latest estimates of employment available from the 50th Round of NSSO (1993-94) the employment on Usual Principal Status basis is 334.84 million compared to 290.93 million in 1987-88 (43rd Round). This implies a 2.37 per cent growth rate per annum.

(d) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Workers' Participation in Management

78. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the details of different steps taken/contemplated by Government to increase workers' participation in management?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): A Scheme for Employees' Participation in management is applicable since 1983 to all Central Public Sector Undertakings except those undertakings which are specifically exempted from the operation of the scheme.

Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur has been engaged for conducting training courses under the Plan Scheme "Education and Training to promote Workers'

Participation in Management."

During 1996-97 Central Board for Workers Education conducted six training courses (one at National level and five at Regional level). During 1997-98, Central Board for Workers Education conducted 47 training courses (one at National level and 46 at Regional level). During 1998-99, Central Board for Workers Education will conduct 26 training courses (Two at National level and 24 at Regional level).

Agricultural Labour in the Country

79. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of agricultural labour in the country; and

(b) when will Government bring a comprehensive Bill in Parliament to fix minimum wages and other amenities for these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of agricultural workers in the country according to 1991 census is 74,597, 744 (excluding Jammu and & Kashmir).

(b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which provides for fixation and revision of minimum wages is also applicable to agricultural workers. Further, a proposal for enactment of a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers is under active consideration of the Government. in consultation with other Minister/Department.

It would be difficult at this stage to indicate the exact duration this process may take.

Unemployment in Orissa

80. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing unemployment in the undivided KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) districts in Orissa;

(b) whether in large scale migration is taken place due to that reason;

(c) whether Government propose to provide security to the people migrating to other States from the KBK districts in search of jobs; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of wages to Plantation Workers

81. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual wages being paid to plantation workers are far below the minimum wages;

(a) whether there are disparities in actual wages in different sectors of plantation workers from State to State; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a Wage Board for plantation workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Sir, under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, State Governments are the appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages for different sectors of plantation workers. Various State Governments have, therefore, fixed minimum wage for plantation workers by taking into account of prevailing socio-economic factor which influence real wages in the region. Such Minimum Wages fixed for the plantation workers differ from State to State. However, disparities in minimum wages between different states of the same region are discussed in the Regional Labour Ministers' Conferences and necessary remedial steps are taken.

Whenever violation of these provisions is noticed, enforcement machinery of the concerned State takes appropriate action against the defaulter under relevant law.

(c) At present Government does not have a proposal to constitute Wage Board for plantation workers.

Locking up of Labour Contribution in Sick Units

82. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will fhe Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 500